

WESSEX NEWS

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U.L.F. & THE WAR.

"Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you! for in the same manner did their father to the false prophets."
Luke, Ch. VI, V. 26

It would seem that the columns of *Wessex News* have become a rostrum for political controversy; we therefore with full humility submit a few observations on the article by Mr. Lintott published in the edition of May 28th. Calling to his aid all the heavy batteries of Daily Mirror journalism, the writer denounced the "anæmic intellectuals" of the U.L.F. We should not dare to suggest that it is so in this case, but we have known occasions when recourse to such terms of vilification has been symptomatic of a general dearth of more considered and less general criticism.

There were, however, charges of a more purely political character which must be examined by those who wish to attain a balanced view of the position. In the first place the suggestion that the U.L.F. is an integral part of the Communist Party must be vigorously denied. Until April, the U.L.F. was a junior branch of the Labour Party; since the severance of that connection it has been a completely independent organisation. Its membership is drawn from all shades of leftist opinion, and if the Communists have attained a prominence beyond their numerical weight, it is because they from, as a whole, the most energetic and enthusiastic section of political opinion in the Universities. Mr. Lintott arrayed his charges of inconsistency against the C.P. and thence proceeded to pass a verdict condemning the U.L.F. We have no time or space here to consider the accuracy of his allegations against the C.P., but even if these are upheld they have not necessarily any bearing upon the U.L.F., which cannot be made to share such guilt as may be incurred by any sect or party with which it has no official connection.

It is a customary practice in the popular Press to bracket Fascism and Communism together as being two names for what is at rock-bottom the same thing. This has, of course, been worked to death in the Hitler-Stalin "alliance", which looms large in Mr. Lintott's article. It should be recalled, however, that the spread of Fascism in modern Europe has everywhere been most desperately contested by Communists, and the glorious struggle of the International Brigade stands as a perpetual negation of the popularly supposed collusion of Fascism and Communism. What it amounts to is that Russia in Europe is faced with two groups of powers, both of which are fundamentally different from herself. Isolation

being perilous in the extreme, she first approached the less aggressive group, Britain and France. This alignment failed to work, and Russia had good reason to suppose that the Western powers didn't want it to work, so, as any other state would have done in the circumstances, she made overtures to the alternative group. But this doesn't mean that she threw off the mask and revealed herself as a Fascist power, any more than it could have been said, had the Chamberlain-Soviet negotiations born fruit, that Chamberlain was showing himself to be a disguised Communist. We are well aware that in attempting to arrive at a valuation of Russian policy in any terms other than those of the most sinister villainy, we are offending the tender susceptibilities of a large proportion of readers. It should be recalled however, that the overwhelming mass of the information about the U.S.S.R. which reaches this country does so through channels which are, beyond all doubt, unfriendly towards Socialism. Is it outrageous to suggest that some slight tint of coloration may be added? We for our part are perfectly ready to admit that the information received by us from friendly sources is also partisan, and, as such, should be given the same critical consideration as we hope may be extended to the more usual version. At the risk of being damned as subversive, anarchist, Fifth Column, Anti-Christ, or the Apocalyptic Beast, we venture to suggest, with great trepidation, that the truth probably lies somewhere between the two.

It remains for us to consider what the U.L.F. has done to bring upon itself the tides of Mr. Lintott. The line it has taken is as follows. The Government says it is fighting for freedom and democracy, aims of which the U.L.F. is entirely in support. But in this imperfect world, things are not always what they seem to be. Therefore the U.L.F. must subject this avowal to analysis, and before pledging itself to the support of the war, it must glance into the paddock and make sure it puts its money on the right horse. Several factors now emerge. The past record of the Government—Spain, China, Abyssinia, Albania—yields to the more sceptically minded among us a lurking suspicion that the defence of freedom and democracy is in the nature of an afterthought, is in fact a fairly complete change of policy. Now changes of policy,

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President Elect

We are sure that the affairs of the Union will be in capable hands under the guidance of Ron Smith during the next session. Throughout his career at College he has always displayed the keenest enthusiasm in the business of the Union especially of that connected with the immediate interests of the Students. He is never content with other people's opinions and brings a dour critical mind to bear on every kind of intellectual problem. His training in science never allowed him to look upon things from the purely academic point of view, but has always enabled him to consider the practical side of any question.

The apathy of students towards Union affairs is notorious, but we are confident that Ron Smith will do all he can to make the body of students "Union conscious." We are certain that he will maintain the progressive spirit of the Union and will fight to defend these rights and privileges of students which are the essence of university life, and especially will he uphold that freedom of expression and opinion which is the whole raison d'être of education.

The Vice-President Elect

Nesta Thomas comes to the office of Vice-President well equipped to negotiate the quick-sands which occur in every session, and in these days are more than usually frequent. She has been steered during her period as President of Highfield, acquiring powers of leadership and diplomacy which will be invaluable to her. Moreover, as the sole survivor of this year's S.C. she should be the strength of next year's executive. A grounding in constitutional procedure and an appreciation of necessary reforms as well as of the value of tradition suggest inevitably the title of "Grand Old Lady of the Council," except that her social gifts, so often noted in the past, ill-accord with any hint of bath-chair administration.

The present officials assumed office in circumstances expected by their predecessors; next year's know the worst. In Nesta the Union should have a leader able

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The Baltic

MR. J. R. ARMSTRONG, M.A.
War, said Mr. Armstrong, was the final expression of underlying conflict, born in nationalism, economic readjustments, and politico-strategic needs in Power politics.

The feeling of nationalism had been fomented by the lack of unity in the Baltic, by the conflict of races, and by great economic differences. The last War had exaggerated these differences, by giving prosperity to Denmark and Sweden, and by devastating the Eastern Baltic lands. The establishment of the large towns by Germans and Swedes, and the settlement of Jews by the Czar, had led to great minority problems creating tension between town and country. Of the Baltic States, Poland had the greatest proportion of alien population—Germans in the Corridor and Russians in the East. Being strong enough to defy the demands of the League of Nations, she had had little consideration for minorities. The Corridor question had given great impetus to Nazi Propaganda, which had also aggravated the German minority problem of Denmark.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, Russia and Germany had built in the Baltic states large-scale industries, which collapsed when the States became independent. Readjustment came slowly, but as agriculture was developed at the expense of industry, Social Democracy became more Liberal. The greatest development had taken place in the North. Poland, however, already overcrowded, was becoming more poverty-stricken by an increasing birth-rate which further aggravated the Corridor problem. Swedish iron-ore had become overwhelmingly important to Germany since her loss of Lorraine. The existing system of communications, built to serve Germany and Russia, had had to be reorganised for national requirements: its development had exaggerated existing economic problems.

The Pole Star of Russian policy had been to secure an outlet to the sea; Peter the Great had achieved this at St. Petersburg. By the peace settlement this became her only important outlet, hence the need for defences. Fear of Hitler had thrown the Baltic States into Stalin's arms, who was thereby enabled to secure adequate defences for Leningrad.

WESSEX NEWS

Economic Warfare

PROF. P. FORD, Ph.D., B.Sc.(Econ.)

In beginning his lecture on Economic Warfare, Prof. Ford expressed his happiness at seeing old faces again. He stressed the need for raising the nation's war effort: that we should accumulate an overwhelming predominance in weapons of war. At present, Germany possessed predominance in the two most important factors in modern warfare—weapons of war and population. Britain, on the other hand, had far more iron, and an overwhelming superiority in transport.

The immediate task of the nation was to increase its output of goods, its army, and the standard of health of its civil population; as an economist, he was only concerned with the increased output of goods. This could be effected by bringing in the unemployed, and women workers; by lengthening hours of work the gaps caused by conscription could be filled in. Secondly, there must be Government control because private enterprise could no longer "deliver the goods." There must be no more new public utilities: exports must be subsidised. Thirdly, civilian consumption must be reduced. Three methods presented themselves: rationing, restriction of goods sold, and deferred pay. Of these, the last, Professor Ford considered the neatest and easiest.

The German method was an imitation of that used by this country in the last war. Wage and price fixing, and rationing, and community saving for the war effort. Germany had had a war economy for a long time.

Gains in conquest should not be overrated: their control should be given entirely to men of industry. Contraband control and pre-emptive purchase were of great value. Finally, Professor Ford assured us that Germany could not stand a long war or a long siege.

U.L.F. and THE WAR—continued

as Mr. Lintott so tellingly pointed out, are seldom made without good reason. What the U.L.F. has in fact done, and what in the eyes of Mr. Lintott constitutes a violation of all laws, human and divine, is to look beyond mere protestations for an ulterior motive, to examine what basis of solid self-interest may be beneath this summons to a new crusade. You may regard this as treachery: but to whom? Surely the U.L.F. is doing the nation a service by attempting to awaken it to the possibility that it may be on a journey past the proverbial cricket eleven. Winning the toss they elected to bat. Baylis placed the field with daring unorthodoxy, but after a quick wicket Helen and Betty settled down, and shewed no respect for the bowling, despite the mixing which went on at the suggestion of the crowd. Wallace and Harold Marshalled each maiden over to the wicket with due ceremony, and the women's score mounted high owing to a strong tendency among the men to overset the boundary between cricket and soccer. It wasn't until the men resorted to underhand methods of bowling that the innings was brought to a close at 119.

Betty proved herself an "allrounder" following up her success with the bat by opening the bowling. Almost immediately a catch by Jean in the Nick of time sent Collins trekking back to the pavilion. Then the rout began: the women excelled both at bowling and bowls, for the men it was just a case of run in and run out, while the women walked away with the match. Then Wallace appeared on the turf at 65-6 against, and soon sent the Totaliser clinking merrily. He was abetted by Len Smith, who pun-

S.C.M. Cricket Match

The ever narrowing preserves of the dominant sex were further invaded the other evening, when eleven aggressive young women, instigated by S.C.M. and followed by a throng of supporters, declared war on the first cricket eleven. Winning the toss they elected to bat. Baylis placed the field with daring unorthodoxy, but after a quick wicket Helen and Betty settled down, and shewed no respect for the bowling, despite the mixing which went on at the suggestion of the crowd. Wallace and Harold Marshalled each maiden over to the wicket with due ceremony, and the women's score mounted high owing to a strong tendency among the men to overset the boundary between cricket and soccer. It wasn't until the men resorted to underhand methods of bowling that the innings was brought to a close at 119.

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ed the ball each way, until Jean aced him from the Town end with the score at 26 up and 2 to play. But though the women used all their arts to bring about his undoing, Wallace refused to be tempted, and at last Tich Taylor appeared from nowhere in time for the winning hit.

A few words of praise must be said for the vanquished. They gave nothing away in the field, and several new victims were added to the long list of men caught out by the denizens of Highfield. Mention must be made of Maggie's wicket-keeping: she stood in the way of all that came, while her square and long legs supported her admirably.

The Vice-President Elect—*cont.*
to cope with domestic difficulties, to co-operate with authority in times of need, and to represent our spirit when she has to meet our contemporaries elsewhere.

Faculty Representatives

At the Faculty Society meetings last Thursday, the following were elected as faculty representatives on S.C.:

Arts: Miss L. Rose, Messrs. F. E. Hawdon, A. G. Derbyshire, K. East; Economics: Miss P. Eveleigh; Science: Miss B. Hancock, Messrs. B. S. Dyer, and L. A. Smith.

We offer our congratulations to them.

No meeting of the Faculty Society of the Engineers was held on the appointed day.

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WESSEX NEWS

SPORTS

CRICKET RESULTS.

U.C.S. v. A.G.W.I., Lost by 72 runs, U.C.S. 124 (Baylis 36, East 28) A.G.W.I. (196-7 dec.).

College seemed to be in the winning mood after scoring decisive victories over Eastleigh and R.A.F. Netheravon. In both matches our batsmen showed a greater readiness to attack the indifferent bowling, and we found little difficulty in scoring the necessary runs.

Against A.G.W.I. last Saturday however, there was different story to tell. We fielded first under a gruelling sun, on a batsmen's wicket and a very fast outfield. By tea-time A.G.W.I. had scored 196 by forceful batting in less than two hours.

That we eventually lost this match must be attributed to the lack of concentration of our batsmen. Baylis and East laid a solid foundation, with some excellent batting, but far too many wickets were thrown away. One early batsman was run out, a fault which has become much too prevalent lately, and several batsmen lost their wickets by playing back to good length balls, a fatal practice on a fast wicket. Gilbert, playing his first serious innings, showed considerable promise, while making 15 confident runs.

We are looking forward to the day when the College will play together as a team. Every man has potentialities, and yet too often reliance is placed on one or two, not always the same ones fortunately.

A footnote to the A.G.W.I. match, Three prominent members of the team, who should know better, missed the boat, and arrived on the field after play had started. This is an example of efficiency which we hope will not be copied by the more junior members of the side.

U.C.S. v. Eastleigh, Won by 5 wks. (Wallace 68, Windust 42) U.C.S. v. Netheravon, Won by 5 wks. (Taylor 32 not out, Baylis 22.)

Women's Tennis Club v Bristol—Lost 0—9.

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TENNIS REPORT. MEN'S TEAM.

First Pair Unbeaten Record in Major Fixtures.

Though the team is suffering from changes and mid-season staleness, the results for the last three weeks tennis are encouraging and repay the efforts of the officials to mould an efficient team out of the material in hand. Sloper, an enterprising and forceful player, is a useful addition, although he is unable to play in mid-week fixtures.

Exeter visited us on Wednesday May 29th, and some good tennis was seen before the rain started. The women had been granted the sole use of the hard courts in view of the greater importance of their fixture, and the grass courts soon became very slippery and treacherous. Play was resumed after the first downpour and five matches were played off before the match was abandoned, with Exeter leading 3-2 and four unplayed.

The really excellent condition of the grass courts at Reading and their picturesque surroundings seemed to suit our team which enjoyed a confident victory over sometimes brilliant but unsteady opposition. Ming-Kong Soong demonstrated adequately what he could do with a low-bouncing ball on both wings, his fluent top-spin forehand and flat back-hand drives being a pleasure to watch. Sloper and Blackburn Kane playing together for the first time, were confident and at times even spectacular, as both have very attractive styles and good court technique though Blackburn Kane has to overcome a tendency to take things too easily and Sloper is at times rather wild in his volleys. Davidson and Cator, also together for the first time, played sound tennis, and the final result was 6-3 in our favour.

At Winchester on the following Wednesday we lost by the narrow margin of 5-4, being rather disconcerted by the speed of the courts and the difficulty of seeing balls against a white stone wall on one side and a chalk cliff on the other.

We then entertained the Glebeans Club in a mixed match which we won by 7-5, thus avenging the defeat we sustained at their hands at the beginning of the season.

The long journey to Bristol did not seem to effect the team seriously, and when play commenced, all three pairs settled down to steady, forceful tennis. The Bristol team was much weakened by the absence of those taking examinations, and had they been able to turn out a full team the result might have been different. As it was, we won decisively by six matches to two with one unplayed, the first and second pairs winning all three of their matches. Hale and Christison came in from the second team

in the absence of Sloper and Leclercq. Hale combined well with Blackburn Kane, playing steadily if not brilliantly, but Christison and Cator seemed to lack the necessary punch and lost their two matches by a narrow margin. Lane and Soong combined to produce some good court technique and fast drives and won their matches without dropping a set.

In the major fixtures of the season with Exeter, Bristol and Reading, the first pair are to be congratulated on their unbeaten record. Faults in the team have still to be rectified, however: players must remember that a well placed ball is better than a fast one and that no amount of energy will make up for lack of anticipation and of court craft. This is the lesson that older players such as those at Bellemoore Club drum into the team with 12-0 defeats but which it still refuses to learn.

To some it may seem patry to worry about a back-hand drive when the destinies of nations are at stake. I would refer these to an anecdote to be found in any children's history book about a certain game of bowls and a Spanish fleet. Perhaps the reference is not quite relevant: England has seen enough of dilatory methods and lack of preparedness. But while we are here, we must reconcile ourselves to the fact that for a while to others must be left the task in which we are prepared to take our part as soon as may be. In the meanwhile, there is no reason why fitness should be neglected. The playing fields of Eton may not have the military importance which some would attach to them: but it may be a consolation to some that overhead brilliance can still refer to a mid-court smash as to the evolutions of a Spitfire.

ATHLETIC CLUB.
U.C.S. 47; King Alfred's 28. In the match against King Alfred's, which was in the nature of a substitute for the cancelled Hants Inter-Collegiate, almost every member of the team excelled himself.

In the 100 we witnessed the unusual spectacle of four false starts due to the rather undisciplined eagerness of our visitors. At last, our very capable starter, K. N. Reed, got the runners well away, and Wallace, running very easily, won comfortably in 10.4 seconds. Before cantering home in the 220, he took the long jump—at which he is comparatively a novice—with a fine leap of 21ft. 2ins, only 3½ins. short of the record. It seems not too optimistic to predict that yet a fourth ground record will be broken by Wallace, the greatest athlete ever produced by College.

Lager was hard-pressed and ran his best 440 of the season. Wood, running very easily, maintained his sequence of home wins. Fielding continues to improve steadily—he has reduced his time by three seconds—and should go far. The mile was won by

Cohen, who started the season as a sprinter and has now settled down to middle-distance running. The secretary, a very close second in the mile and the 3, ran with his usual phlegmatic determination. Our high-jumpers, inexplicably unable to reproduce their Sports Day form, were given an exhibition of how to perform the "eastern cut-off."

RESULTS.

100: Wallace; K. A.; K. A. Time: 10.4secs.; 880: Wood; K. A.; Dukes; Time 2m. 4.4secs. Long Jump: Wallace; K. A.; Sager; Distance 21ft 2ins. Javelin: C.T. Reed; K.N. Reed; K. A.; Distance: 139ft. 3 ins. (Student Ground Record.)

220: Wallace; K. A.; Sager; Time: 23 secs. Shot: K. A.; Mackrell; K. A. Distance: 33ft. Mile: Cohen; Dyer; K. A. 50m. 52.4secs. High Jump: K. A.; C. T. Reed; K. A. Height 5ft. 4ins. Hurdles: Fielding; K. A.; Time: 17.8secs. 440: Sager; K. A.; Snellgrove; Time: 54.4secs. Discus: C. T. Reed; Mackrell; K. A.; Distance: 98ft 2½ins. 3 miles: K. A.; Dyer 98ft. 2½ins. 3 miles: K. A.; Dyer; K. A.; Time: 17mins 38.8secs. Relay: U.C.S.; K. A. C.; Time: 3mins 46.6secs. (Student Ground Record.)

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